

brothers in the West have long discovered, and now deeply lament, the great evil of drunkenness. It has been many years since it was first introduced among us by our white brothers; Indians do not know how to make strong drink. If it be not shortly stopped among our people, it will be our ruin. We are now in consequence of it a miserable people. We are poor and naked. We have made repeated attempts to suppress this evil and have failed. We want our white brothers to help us and we will try again.

"Brothers—We want you to send to our great father, the President of the United States, and let him know our deplorable situation, that the bad men among our white brothers may be stopped from selling whiskey to the Indians. Could you, my brothers, see the evil of this barbarous practice you would pity the poor Indians!"

"Brothers—When a white man trading in our country meets an Indian, he asks him the first time, 'Take a drink,' he says, 'No.' He asks a second time, 'Take a drink, good whiskey,' he says, 'No.' He asks the third time, 'Take a drink, no hurt you,' he takes a little; then he wants more. Then the trader tells him he must buy. He then offers his gun; the white man take it. Next his skins; white man takes them. He at last offers his shirt; white man takes it.

"When he gets sober, he begins to inquire—'Where is my gun?' He is told, 'You sold it for whiskey.' 'Where are my skins?' 'You sold them for whiskey!' 'Where is my shirt?' 'You sold it for whiskey!' Now my white brothers, imagine to yourself the deplorable situation of that man, who has a wife and children at home dependant on him and in a starving condition, when he himself is without a shirt!"

The speech of which the above is the substance was with other documents transmitted by the Quakers to Mr. Jefferson, when he was in office as President of the United States. By him it was transmitted to the governor of Ohio, with a pressing request (see journals H. R. 1808-9) that it should be laid before the legislature of the state at its next session. He did so. The legislature with great promptitude acted on the subject, and passed the excellent law which is now in force on that subject.

What an example has been set by this Indian chief, worthy the imitation of any great man!

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, MAY 26.

H. B. M.'s S. Herald, Capt. Kellert, C. B., which sailed hence on the 19th instant left England on the 26th of June, 1845. Touched at Rio Janeiro, the Falkland Islands, Concepcion, Valparaiso and Callao. Thence to New Grenada, where she commenced her special object of surveying, in the Bay of Choco. Surveyed River Buenaventura as high up as the town of the same name. This is the best harbor on the west coast; but this even has but 12 to 16 feet of water. After completing the survey of this bay proceeded to Panama, thence to the straits of Juan de Fuca, in lat. about 48° N. Remained in the straits three months, and surveyed the south part of Vancouver's Island, and the north part of Oregon territory in the straits.

From the straits of Juan de Fuca the Herald returned south to San Francisco, in California, surveying some islands on the coast; and reached Mazatlan in Mexico, in Nov. 1846. Thence down the Mexican coast to Panama, where she arrived in the middle of Jan. 1847. Spent three months in surveying the Pearl Islands in Panama Bay, whence she proceeded to Callao to provision and refit, and arrived in June.

After refitting she proceeded to Guayaquil, and surveyed from Santa Clara island up to the city of Guayaquil, a distance of about forty miles.—From this point she completed the survey of the S. Am. coast as high up as Panama Bay, by Feb. 1848.

Here the Herald received orders from England to proceed to Kamtschatka, to seek out a proper position for, and to establish and provision H. B. M.'s Ship Plover, that she might be in readiness to communicate with, and relieve the wants of Sir John Franklin, in case he should succeed in finding his way through the east. After a very rough and tedious passage, during which she was towed some 600 miles by H. B. M.'s steam-frigate Samson, she arrived in 90 days at Petropaulovskoi, in Asiatic Russia.—After recruiting, and receiving every possible civility and attention from the Russians, she crossed the sea of Kamtschatka to Norton's Sound, in Russian America, to procure interpreters, and landers (light seal-skin boats), the latter of which she failed to procure. The latter employed her till August, 1848.

From Norton's Sound the H. proceeded northward, and in September anchored off the island of Chamisso, in Kotzebue's Sound, in about 67° N. lat. Here she remained a month, cruising about and exploring the bay; but failed to hear any thing of Sir J. Franklin and his expedition, or of the Plover, with whom she expected to fall in, and to establish whom in winter-quarters she was despatched.

[The Plover left these islands, it will be recollected, on the 24th of Aug. last, too late in the season, probably, to reach her rendezvous before the Herald left. She has not since been heard from at these islands.]

From Kotzebue's Sound the Herald returned to Petropaulovskoi, and after a short stay left again on the 21st Oct., after having again experienced the hospitality and kind attentions of the Russian officers and others of that place.

From the north, at the approach of winter, the Herald again turned her prow towards the south, and after surveying the island of Guadaloupe, which is about 100 miles to the north of Mazatlan, arrived at the latter place on the 21st of Nov. From Mazatlan she continued down the coast, touching at San Blas, and arrived at Panama in Jan. 1849. Continued the survey of the coast from point Mala, the northern point of Panama bay, to point Barica, the southern point of Costa Rica, in lat. 8° north.

This completes the survey of the entire west coast of South America, by the British government; and in fact, the whole South American Continent has now been surveyed, by the British and French,—by the latter, on the east coast as far south as the River Plate, and by the former from the Plate round to 8° north in the Pacific.

From Costa Rica the Herald came direct to these islands, and arrived here on the 9th May.

After a short stay here, she sailed again on the 19th, for Petropaulovskoi, to carry out the attempt of the past year, which she did not then succeed in doing.

It was not a little gratifying to hear it asserted by the officer of the ship who very obligingly communicated the above information, that of all the places touched at on the cruise, they had found none that equalled Honolulu, as a pleasant and agreeable place, for its intelligent society, and for the peaceful and orderly character of the town. May such commendations ever be merited.

We have no means of knowing exactly, but have estimated the distance sailed by the Herald since leaving England at 50,000 to 60,000 miles. And now, instead of turning her course homeward, after a cruise of nearly four years, she again launches out among the icebergs of the Arctic sea, in pursuit of an object that does honor to humanity, and reflects great credit upon the government that sends her forth. We hope that success may attend her, and that she may enjoy the satisfaction of affording relief to an expedition that has awakened the most lively interest and sympathy of the whole civilized world.

Surveying voyages, like the one in which the Herald has been engaged, are not usually attended by those brilliant incidents that attract the notice of the world; but their results and benefits are chiefly reduced to practical value in the form of maps and charts. And while laborious and self-denying to the officers and men engaged in them, are equally creditable to those nations that sustain them for the benefit of all commercial countries.

The Pandora, which has been connected with the Herald in her surveying cruise, is now here, and will sail in a day or two for England.

We have seen it intimated in some of the American prints, that under the cover of surveying, she had, in fact, been engaged in smuggling. We have good authority for contradicting this assertion, and for expressing our disbelief of it. As a national vessel, she was under obligation to render assistance to British merchants; and doubtless during the troubles that have occurred upon the west coast during the past few years she may have thus been so employed. But that a British government vessel is justly chargeable with the crime of smuggling we have no idea whatever. England has too much trouble in preventing the violation of her own excise laws, not to refrain from allowing such a breach, by one of her commissioned vessels, of the laws of another kingdom. Self-interest, and self-respect, had she no higher motive, would prevent such an infringement of the rights of others. Her rights, England has no occasion to waive, or secure by evasion.

COURT NEWS.

The King gave an audience, yesterday, to H. B. M.'s Consul General, to present Capt. Eden of H. B. M.'s S. Amphitrite and Commander Wood of H. B. M.'s S. Surveying Brigantine Pandora, with their several officers.

The Premier, the King's Ministers, the High Chiefs, Members of the King's Privy Council, Alex. Liho Liho, his Excellency the acting Governor of Oahu, the Governor of Kauai, and Mr. Secretary Hopkins were present.

The party arrived at 12 noon and were received by the Minister of Foreign Relations, and the Chief Pahi, Chamberlain to the King.

Consul general Miller, presented the following officers of H. B. M.'s S. Amphitrite.

Thos. Rodney Eden, Esq., Captain; Lieuts. G. Walker, J. H. Furneaux, Walter Strickland; Mr. Wm. Loney, Surgeon; W. G. Farmer, Paymaster and Purser; G. W. Suther, Lieut. R. M.; Mark R. Pechell, T. M. S. Riddell, Henry Huxham, Midshipman; W. J. Stevens, Clerk; J. D. Puddicombe, D. M. Anderson, Naval Cadets.

The Consul General then presented Com'r. Wood of H. B. M.'s Surveying Brig Pandora, and Geo. Gordon Esq., Surgeon of that vessel.

The Consul Gen. also presented Mr. Ellwys, an English gentleman on his travels.

Captain Eden addressed the King to the following effect.

"Admiral Hornby C. B., Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's ships in the Pacific, has desired me to present his respects to your Majesty, regretting that other duties prevent his paying them in person; furthermore, he has desired me to give his thanks for the reception which all our ships met with in your Majesty's dominions."

The King was pleased to reply as follows:—CAPTAIN EDEN:—You and your officers are welcome to my kingdom.

It is the second time that I have received a kind and courteous message from the British Admiral. The first was by Captain Courtenay of the Constance, who, in the name of the Admiral, showed to me, my Queen and my suite of chiefs and officers, while conveying us to Kauai, attentions which I shall ever gratefully remember. You are to write to the British Admiral that I shall be very happy to see him and his family at my islands, and to Captain Courtenay that we have not forgotten his kindness and courtesies when here.

It will please me to know that you and your officers pass some time pleasantly during your stay here.

The Minister of Foreign Relations afterwards introduced the officers to the high Chiefs and other functionaries, in the Council Chamber.

FROM THE VOLCANO.—Our correspondent from Hilo, under date of May 21st, says:—"On the night of the 15th instant, while crossing the channel from Maui to Hawaii, we desecrated a new volcanic eruption upon the summit of Mauna Loa. A bright pillar shot up several hundred feet heavenward, all glowing with light from the fires beneath. I need not say that we gazed upon it with intense interest and admiration.—We learn that this new volcano has been seen from Hilo and Kau for about two weeks." Old Kilauea is also in vehement action. Its rapid and terrific explosions have been heard at the distance of 10 or 15 miles. The inhabitants of Oloa have been startled by these fearful detonations. So you see old mother Pele only slumbered for a few months, to renew her strength, and to breathe out more horrid blasts from her fiery nostrils."

QUESTIONS SOMETIMES ANSWERED.—When an editor is asked "what is the news?" Sometimes not.

By a captain in a calm, when importuned by his passengers, "When will there be a breeze?" By an importer, when interrogated by a customer, "What did this cost?" Observation.—Importers have "cut their eye teeth," as a class.

Editor of the Polynesian:

MY DEAR SIR,—Twenty years only have elapsed since 100,000 was the supposed number of inhabitants on the single island of Hawaii. This was doubtless too high an estimation. Still, it was a long time before the most incredulous among us were willing to believe that the island contained less than 80,000. And though there have been fears cherished that the population was still decreasing, yet Mr. Editor, who of us was prepared for the astounding item of intelligence contained in the late census of the islands, that a fraction less than 27,000 embraces all the residents of that once populous island. This estimate may be rather low, though there is reason to fear that it is much nearer the truth than any previous estimate.

To those who have long toiled for the good of the nation, the inquiry is one of deep interest, what will become of the Hawaiian race? Allow me through the columns of your paper to speak of the state and prospects of the nation, and to suggest something that may be done to perpetuate the existence of the Hawaiian nation as such.

The state of the Hawaiian race is very critical and precarious. This is obvious from the census of the islands to which I have alluded.—And in speaking of the decrease of the population, I do not allude particularly to the recent great mortality occasioned by the measles and whooping cough, influenza, etc., by which nearly one-tenth of the people have been carried off.—No country is exempt from such visitations.—They check for a little season, the increase of population, as the tornado prostrates the forest; but the cause being removed, the work of increase goes on, as the vegetable kingdom recovers from the shock of the storm, and all traces of devastation are well nigh forgotten. Not so the Hawaiian nation. The steady decrease of the people since my residence among them is the alarming fact to which I allude. It is somewhat like the constant fall of the forest trees in a time of calm, from a secret decay at the heart. How precarious the existence of the race! Nothing can be more certain than that unless a remedy can be applied, unless the decrease can be speedily checked, unless indeed the tide, so to speak, can be turned, so that the population shall increase, the proudest hopes of the friends of the Hawaiian nation will be blighted—the race will soon become extinct.

The state of the Hawaiian nation is precarious inasmuch as it is one of transition from a heathen to a civilized state.

Whatever may be the privations of the untutored, uncivilized nations—and they are greater and more numerous than can easily be expressed or conceived, still these very privations are not without some good influence on the subjects of them, and the state of transition from a heathen to a civilized life is always a critical one, followed commonly by disease and death. This melancholy fact explains the adage which, at first sight creates much astonishment, "civilization eats up the savage."

Just look at the case as it respects this group. Formerly, there were no horses, nor beasts of burden on the islands. Much hard labor and fatigue was the necessary consequence, but then, there were the swift feet for travel, the brawny arm for labor, and the broad shoulders for bearing burdens. These are fast disappearing as horses multiply, as mules and donkeys and oxen are becoming common. Multitudes who have scarcely a comfort in their miserable houses must purchase a horse, and having obtained one, they can no longer go on foot, nor touch a burden "with one of their fingers." Male calves, and even female are in requisition for carrying burdens. They are ridden also; while boys, who catch the spirit of their seniors, select the largest goats in the flocks, and convert them to riding beasts. "The rage for riding is amazingly strong, well nigh rabid; and effeminacy and idleness, and I may add cruelty to the brute creation, hardness of heart, are the fruits. Many of the people say frankly, that the present generation is less hardy than the past, and former generations were."

So also as regards clothing. Formerly this was very simple. They cultivated the tree or domestic cloth tree in great quantities when grown to sufficient size, the bark was stripped off and the kapa manufactured both for wearing and sleeping apparel. This gave much employment to the women; and though the garments were frail, they were warm and on the whole, quite comfortable. But at present very little of this is manufactured or worn. They must have more fashionable clothing; purchase silks, calicoes, and other gay and costly fabrics, though they go hungry in consequence and their children cry for bread. Another consequence is that the Hawaiian women who once labored in beating kapa, now lounge and sleep, or ride on horseback, displaying their gay apparel. The rising generation also is growing up in ignorance of the art of making kapa, so that on the whole, there is at present a loss of comfort in the exchange of native for foreign clothing.

The same holds true of other things. I have sometimes thought that the enactment or non-enactment of laws, and the appointment of magistrates and other officers is a snare, a curse to the people. This is not the fault of the government, nor of the laws. "We know that the law is good if a man use it lawfully." It is in consequence of the transition state of the nation. The amount of litigation is shamefully great. Many seem to think that they are under a kind of obligation to try their hand at the law. Judges also encourage their neighbors to sue each other that they may obtain a fee. Not a few young Hawaiians are becoming lawyers and some of them are quite skillful in persuading their friends to seek redress for real or supposed injuries received by a process of litigation. The increase of shipping too, though of great importance to a commercial point of view, has not in all respects proved a blessing to the people. Canoes are fast decreasing, and are obtained with great difficulty. In consequence of shipping, multitudes of both sexes visit other islands, particularly Oahu, and this attended with expense, waste of time, and other mischievous consequences.

Now I say distinctly, that in my opinion, there can be no objection to the adoption by the Hawaiian Chiefs and people, of foreign modes of living, if done wisely. Let all who are able own a horse; but let that horse prove a blessing by making its owner more industrious. So also of clothing, and houses and fixtures, and furniture. Even the purchase of many of the luxuries of

life would be beneficial provided the possession of them caused the people to be more laborious and economical. I hope that this will be the case, and that it will be, I have no doubt, provided the nation survives the transition state.

Yours for the Hawaiian nation,
Honolulu, May 1849. GIMEL.

PAY THE PHYSICIAN.

Nearly thirty years have elapsed since the benevolence and enterprise of the American churches sent the gospel to these Hawaiian shores.—During this period, the American Board of Foreign Missions have sustained a system of labor dispensing physical, intellectual and moral blessings among the people. The institutions of civilized and christian countries have been planted and have taken root in every foot of the islands; and it is believed the time has arrived, when the full development of the energies of the people requires that they begin to sustain their own institutions and thus allow the streams of American benevolence to flow to those who are more destitute.

At the late meeting of the American Protestant Mission, various measures were adopted tending to this end. It is believed that the people will value education more, when they pay for it, than when they receive it as a gratuity; that they will prize the gospel more highly when they support it, than when it costs them nothing.

Since the Mission was established, medicines and medical services have generally been gratuitously afforded to all who have applied for them, whether natives or foreigners. Believing that the medical department ought to support itself, that many of the Hawaiians as well as foreigners, who apply to Missionaries for medical aid, are able to pay for medicines and for the services of the physicians, and that they would thereby receive more physical advantage than when obtained gratuitously, the Mission at its late general meeting resolved, that those who are able to pay for medicines and medical services, whether natives or foreigners, hereafter be charged for the same. Why should they not pay for such things as well as for their food or clothing? The laborer is worthy of his hire, and the medical man should live by his calling, as truly as the mechanic or merchant.

SENSIBLE.—A gentleman resident here, who has been long "a looker on in Venice," and who has allowed himself to be very much annoyed by the mistakes of government, has lately "come round," and has concluded to let things take care of themselves.

This is sensible, and we hope the gentleman will not stop at that, but take the oath of allegiance, buy some land, settle down, and become one of us. We want good men and true: and there is room for many.

We were reminded, on hearing the above, of Goldsmith's Hardcastle, and moralized a little on the identity of humanity in all ages. In 1773 we find the same conclusion arrived at as in 1849, "and there is no new thing under the sun."

"So you have no tune for politics, I find. Not in the least. There was a time, indeed, I fretted myself about the mistakes of government, like other people; but finding myself every day grow more angry, and the government growing no better I left it to mend itself. Since that I no more trouble my head about who's in or who's out, than I do about John Nokes or Tom Suits."

When good men are in, however, let them have an opportunity to do something for the good of the public, and don't keep them occupied about the "mint, anise, and cummin," while they are obliged to neglect more weighty matters that would be beneficial to all concerned.

DON'T WORRY.—When Bulstrode Whitelocke was embarking as Cromwell's envoy to Sweden, in 1653, he was much disturbed in mind as he rested in Harwich on the preceding night. "What a very stormy, while he reflected on the distracted state of the nation. It happened that a confidential servant slept in an adjacent bed, who, finding that his master could not sleep, at length said, 'Pray, sir, will you give me leave to ask you a question?' 'Certainly.' 'Pray, sir, don't you think that God governed the world very well before you came into it?' 'Undoubtedly.' 'And pray, sir, don't you think he will govern it quite as well when you are gone out of it?' 'Certainly.' 'Then, sir, pray excuse me, but don't you think you may trust him to govern it quite as well as long as you live?' To this question Whitelocke had nothing to reply; but turning himself about, soon fell fast asleep till he was summoned to embark.

LOOK AT THIS.—In Edinburgh there are 902 convicts engaged in the traffic in strong drink, and only 200 bakers. In Honolulu there are eleven of the former and two of the latter. Balance against us.

It was stated in the Town Hall, Birmingham, at a parish meeting, that while £65,000,000 per annum were paid in Great Britain for intoxicating drinks, the whole literature of the country cost little more than £2,000,000.

In an old paper, published many years ago, we find the following:—In 1848 I would not like to be a king. In 1849, I would not like to be a soldier. In 1850, I would not like to be a grave-digger. In 1851, I would like to be any thing but a king.

Who will interpret it?

A national debt of over 75 millions is shown by the official report in the Washington Union, to have been already incurred by Mr. Polk's war of invasion. The precise amount now given, as existing on the 20th June, is \$75,735,450.

BANKRUPTCY OF FRANCE.—France has already been six times bankrupt. The first was under Sully, who added the interest to the capital; the second at the close of the long reign of Louis XIV., under the ministry of Desmarets, who paid neither interest nor capital; the third was the consequence of Law's system, under the ministry of Lepelletier; the fourth under the Abbé Terray, who did not pay the treasury bills and many other debts; the fifth was in 1794, after the creation of forty-five and a half milliards of assignats, and the erasure from the list of the debt of 2,400,000,000 francs; and the sixth in 1797, by the reduction of two-thirds of the public debt.

SOICIDES.—We notice in the Alta California two suicides; one of a man recently arrived in the country, who was robbed on the way of \$600. The other, John Wiley, a man somewhat notorious here at one time, as may be recollected, from the use that was made of him.

We understand that Mr. Goodale, the recently appointed Marshal, will perform the duties of Sheriff of Oahu, and Prefect of Police for the town of Honolulu.

THE following is an extract from a letter addressed by James Buchanan, Secretary of State, to the people of California, through Wm. H. Voorhies, Esq., on the eve of his departure for California, on a mission connected with the Post-Office Department:—

"The permanent prosperity of any new country is identified with the permanent security of its land titles. The land system of the general government, has been a system of admiration throughout the world. The wisdom of man has never devised a plan so well calculated to prevent litigation, and place the rights of owners of the soil beyond dispute.

"This system has been one great cause of the rapid settlement and progress of our new states and territories. Emigrants have been attracted there, because every man knew that when he had acquired land from the government he could sit under his own fig tree, and there would be none to make him afraid. Indeed there can be no greater drawback to the prosperity of a country, as several of the older states have experienced, than disputed land titles. Prudent men will be deterred from emigrating to a state or territory where they cannot obtain an indisputable title, and must consequently be exposed to the danger of strife and litigation in respect to the soil on which they dwell. An uncertainty respecting the security of land titles arrests all valuable improvement, because no individual will expend his means for this purpose, whilst there is danger that another may deprive him of the fruit of his labors."

The justice and importance of the truths contained in the above extract, cannot but be apparent to every one who gives the subject a thought; and more particularly, to that class of men who desire to invest their funds in lands, and expend capital upon real estate. They are self-evident truths,—axioms,—that need no argument. The only question remaining, therefore, is, how can they be carried into practical operation?

In the United States, especially in the new states and territories, where the virgin soil comes untrampled into the possession of the general government, no difficulty whatever exists. It is surveyed, and mapped off into townships, sections, half and quarter sections, land offices are established, and the lands sold at a stipulated price per acre to any citizen of the country, eighty acres, or a quarter section, being the least the government sell. All this is admirable, and conforms to a wise and judicious question or dispute.

Unless we are much mistaken, this is the object that has occupied the "Land Commission" in this kingdom, from the moment of its organization till the present time. And it is to effect this object that several members of that commission have been for many months absent upon the other islands, taking testimony, investigating claims, and confirming titles. But how Herculean the task! Instead of an unencumbered waste of unoccupied lands, this entire kingdom has its claimants upon one tenure or another.—There is scarcely an inch of soil that has not been claimed by from one to an almost countless plurality of aspirants. Claims, of the most complex nature, resulting from heirship at two or three removes from the original occupant; and claims upon tenures almost incomprehensible to any but native minds. Add to this, the immense labor of translating all this testimony into English, and recording it in a permanent form for all future reference. Also, the fact that even the few who have composed this Board have held other important trusts, and have been frequently interrupted, and at times taken entirely off from the labors of the "Land Commission."

We have great expectations from this commission, and would urge the utmost expedition in settling titles that the subject will admit.—Relax no effort that can be made for the completion of the work, and throw the unoccupied lands of the kingdom into the market as soon as possible.

We most confidently anticipate a great demand for lands within the current year; from multitudes who will come here from California, and from multitudes who will choose to come to these delightful islands to enjoy their competence or wealth. A demand for lands by white men will stimulate the natives to buy; and as enterprise is infectious, every improvement will awaken new desires in others.

Agriculture must be the basis of the prosperity of these islands. There are few sources of wealth beside the productions of the soil, and these will find a ready market and good prices in our own vicinity, and in quantities never dreamed of by the most sanguine a year ago.—Therefore, let all the energies of the Land Commission be put in requisition, to have the lands got ready for sale as soon as possible. And let every obstacle to the easy and certain procurement of lands be removed. But more particularly, let the rights of the natives to a portion of the soil of their own country, be most scrupulously guarded, and by no means allow the poor Hawaiian to be crowded out of his own country by the wealthy capitalist from another land.—There is no need of this. There is room enough for all; and millions of people could, and will, we trust, occupy these smiling valleys, and rolling plains. Let it be our aim to lay the foundations of that future population deep and broad. Let education, temperance, virtue, religion—founded on the Bible—be our watchwords and we have no fears that there will not be a people here, or that that people will not be a prosperous and happy one.

NATIVE PRODUCE.—We have often wondered why foreigners, who have land in the vicinity of Honolulu suitable for the purpose, do not engage in the business of cultivating such vegetables as are in demand in the Honolulu market. The prices of all such things are high here, and often poor and scarce. We desire to see the markets better filled with better productions and at a more moderate price. There is also much complaint of the quality of the beef furnished of late; and on this subject we can speak from experience. It is poor, "and no mistake."

NAVAL.—H. B. M.'s Ship Amphitrite, Capt. Thos. Rodney Eden, arrived on the 2nd, in 32 days from Callao, and exchanged salutes with the Fort, and on the 25th was brought in, and is now at anchor in our beautiful harbor, where there is room for a large fleet. The A. left Valparaiso on the 1st of April, and Callao on the 21st.

The birthday of Her Britannic Majesty, Queen Victoria, was observed on Thursday, the 24th inst. Flags were displayed from the various public places and forts in town; the shipping was dressed out in gay livery, and salutes fired from H. B. M.'s ship Amphitrite and the fort in Honolulu.

Who is Responsible?—From a communication just received, we make the following extract:—"Speaking of a man in California, found dead, in your last paper, you ask 'who killed him?' Is not this harsh language to use on such an occasion?"

Perhaps it is. At any rate, as the inquiry is couched in respectful terms, it is worthy of a respectful answer. In speaking of the death of the poor drunkard, the editor of the Alta California said it was "untimely." If untimely, as the death of all drunkards is,—somebody, doubtless, helped to make it so. A presidential act cannot be designated untimely. The act which resulted in the death above alluded to, was a combined act; the man who furnished, and the man who was killed by the poison, are both responsible, in our opinion. And to prove that this opinion is well-founded, we quote from the Book of Books; which, to us, is the end of all controversy, on moral subjects.

To prove that the rumrunner is responsible, we quote from Habakkuk 2: 15.—"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink." Woe to him.

To prove that the drunkard is responsible, we quote from 1 Cor. 6: 10.—"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Who is responsible? For all the gold the mines of California ever have, or ever will produce, we would not take the responsibility resting upon the man that furnished Peter Stevens with the poison that brought him to an untimely end. Neither would we be an importer, a seller or a drinker of it, for ten thousand such mines; because, "What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

It is with unspeakable pain that we encounter the man who has begun to descend the downward road that ends in inebriation and in the drunkard's ruin. But who can step abroad without meeting with such? It is in vain for a man to attempt to hide the fact from observation. Nature is too true to her own laws not to reveal it, however much the shame of the tippie may, for a time, wish to conceal it. The indications of "temperate drinking" soon discover themselves in the inflamed state of the delicate veins that are spread out with such initial skill upon the "human face divine." The eye, which possesses such power, that all the brute creation quail before it, is glassy and unnatural when the system is poisoned with alcohol. The breath,—but stop, we need not depict the physical indications of intemperance, or even of temperate drinking; every body understands them. But we again say, that it is with unspeakable sorrow that we observe these indications in our encounters with men. And had we the eloquence of an angel we would bring it all into requisition to persuade such to "taste not, touch not, handle not," what will certainly lead to ruin. Beware! young man; you are trifling with an enemy that will certainly vanquish you. You are sowing the wind, and you will reap the whirlwind. You are cutting up by the roots the happiness of your friends, your wife and your children. You are destroying your intellect, and you will very shortly incapacitate yourself for those duties of life that call for mind. Stop short, or you are ruined.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received a communication from some unknown source, from which we have room for the following extract only:—

"Therefore I advise, without being further tedious, all individuals of maturity of mind and judgment to forsake the evil practices of saluting and greeting in church, of sleeping and idling, of laughing and whispering, for I am sorry to say that there are some who no doubt pride themselves on a certain deportment, but who, notwithstanding, allow themselves to turn this way and that, (blushing to their very eyes of course, speaking now to one on the right and now to one on the left, as if trying to show how polite they can appear. It must be confessed, this looks more like attending a soiree than a church."

We are not aware, from any personal observation of our own, that the practices above alluded to have become so rife in Honolulu as to call for special reprehension. Still, we are happy to notice such a watchful regard for the proprieties of the Lord's house, as is manifest from the communication under consideration. And such allusions to the subject will be sufficient to secure a reform; and so far as it applies to parents, to a watchfulness over their children, and such instruction as shall impress upon their minds the fact that the Lord's day is a holy day, and the Lord's house a house of prayer. See Ecclesiastes 5: 1.

To correspondents generally we beg leave to say, that in so small a paper as the Polynesian, and issued but once a week, it is desirable to have every thing condensed. All prolixity, unnecessary "heating the bush," should be avoided, and the point come at directly.

A MISTAKE.—The following is from the "Nautical Almanac and Naval Chronicle" (English), for December, 1847:—

"The ship *Helvetia*, 330 tons, Capt. W. Porter, burnt in Sandwich harbor, Pacific, 30th of February, 1847. Laden with sperm and seal oil; fire commenced on the fore part of the vessel, between decks, prompt assistance, and endeavors made to subdue the fire by shot from the fort and scuttling her, but all proved abortive. That she was wilfully set on fire, the captain and officers had no doubt, but they exempt the crew, and impute the infamous act to a native who made his escape immediately after the outbreak of the fire."

The latter sentence is both true and false; the ship was wilfully set on fire, is doubtless true; but that it was the act of a "native," there is not the least evidence whatever; nor has it been imputed to one here, where the ship was burnt. That the natives have their vices, are free to admit. But they have some virtues also, for which we shall contend. An act heinous as destroying a valuable ship and crew is one that belongs to men either more or less civilized than the Hawaiians now are.

H. B. M.'s Consul General and Captain Eden of H. B. M.'s S. Amphitrite, called on the King's Ministers and the acting Governor of Oahu, on the 23rd inst.

His Excellency, John B., acting Governor of Oahu, paid a visit to Capt. Eden, on board H. B. M.'s S. Amphitrite, yesterday, and on leaving was saluted with seventeen guns.